

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

~ Executive Director - Norman Snyder - 627-2383

As we move forward into our beautiful fall season I long remember the walks with my grandfather. Where he would share those stories of adventure and life - often giving me a direction to an obstacle. How often we as adults now have that same opportunity to provide those stories of adventure and life. We in the Chamber business call this "networking". I found this definition of "networking" from Donna Fisher of Power Networking:

- *Networking is making links from people we know to people they know, in an organized way, for a specific purpose, while remaining committed to doing our part, expecting nothing in return.*

Now you know what "networking" means. Throughout my lifetime I have attended hundreds of "network" sessions. Out of these networking sessions I have developed wonderful relationships with people, learned new management skills, obtained great experience knowledge, and walked away just feeling good about being able to have the experience. Next time you come to our Sharing A Vision - After Hours make a point to say hello to those attending. It costs you nothing and guess what - if they did not know who you are, they do now. One day they will come through the door of our business or you will receive a telephone call from someone who met you at After Hours, and that saying "hello" will have all been well worth it. Please share the experience! Promoting and marketing your business can be a membership value networking experience that can bring you many rewards as a business owner or manager in our unique community of Grand Ledge.

Member To Member Value: Don't miss out on this great membership value opportunity to market and promote your business and entice shoppers into your place of business. Members of our Chamber who are participating in the Member To Member Value are committed to offering you (a member of our Chamber) a savings to shop at their businesses. Use your special Member To Member card or key tag to receive your savings from other Chamber members. Look for participating members' decals on their doors and windows. Please take advantage of this membership value provided by our membership.



October's Sparkplug: As the Chamber readies for the Color Cruise and Island Festival I observe a lady putting extreme amounts of time and full commitment to the coming festival. Her commitment to having the best Color Cruise and Island Festival ever is her mission. This month I want to recognize Marilyn Smith as this month's Sparkplug. Thank you Marilyn!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Chair - Bill Atkin - 627-2531

We are excited about implementing our Member To Member Value program effective October 1. As you renew your memberships, you will receive the application for enrolling in our Member To Member Value program. We continue to work on increasing our growth. Our Holiday Parade Committee has begun making arrangements for this year's Holiday Parade on December 2. Our Budget & Finance Committee will shortly be working on the budget plan for 2006-2007, and the Nominating Committee will be drafting nominations for director positions for the coming year. Please contact me directly at 290-1954 with any questions, comments, or ideas regarding our Chamber.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

~ Chair - Staci Holmes - 627-6085

We have now enrolled 19 new members as of August 31. This is the time of year we mail out our renewal notices for membership. For those members who paid early, thank you! Your investment in our Chamber is important for us to continue the work of supporting our businesses and community. We hope you will continue to renew your membership and take an active role in your Chamber. We would like to welcome the following new businesses to the Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce:

- Centennial Wireless, Rooms In Bloom, Sweet Linda's Café, The Complete Mortgage Group, Westridge Condominium Association

GRAND LEDGE OPERA HOUSE

~ Co-Chairs - Walt Eschtruth - 627-7554 and Bill Ferrigan - 627-8431

The annual Friends of the Opera House dinner was held September 29. For those who would like to join, yearly membership is available at three levels: Blake - \$18.84, Terrace - \$50, Grand Hall - \$100. Please contact Harlan or Betty MacDowell at 627-8973. The Opera House board is working on plans for the RiverWalk to extend from Jaycee Park, past the Opera House, connecting to the present path near (downtown) Second Island. The board is also working on plans for an elevator from the lower Terrace Level to the Grand Hall.

AMBASSADORS

~ Chair - Sheila Laing - 627-3882

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 26 - 7:30 AM - Blake Room - Opera House. There are no ribbon cuttings at this time. We welcome you to join us at our next meeting.

COLOR CRUISE & ISLAND FESTIVAL ~ OCT 7-9 (10AM-5PM)

~ Chair - Marilyn Smith - 627-5170

Please say yes when Ann Eschtruth (627-7554) calls for workers. Thanks to those of you who have already signed up! Please check the special Color Cruise section on Sunday, October 2 for festival information or the Chamber's web site. There are lots of neat things planned--some old, some new. The committee has worked very hard since the first of the year. Please pray for sunshine and bring your family out to enjoy the festival!

PUBLIC RELATIONS

~ Co-Chairs - Deb Pozega-Osburn - 381-1900 and Karla Chamberlain - 627-2154

Meetings: Thursday, October 20 (third Thursday) - 11:30 AM - Blake Room. In addition to initiatives noted previously, the committee discussed creating a "tool kit" of information about Grand Ledge that would be made available to all Chamber members. It would include up-to-date talking points, a short history of the city, answers to frequently asked questions, and other information that would help business people promote the city and its benefits when speaking to organizations, talking to customers, or just going about their daily business. The committee will seek input from members as the project progresses.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

~ Director - Mark Sullivan - 622-5256

Meetings: Wednesday, October 12 (second Wednesday) - 6:00 PM - City Hall. The DDA, along with the Grand Ledge Library Board, has requested bids for the reconstruction of the sidewalk and road access to the library on the west side, adjacent to the parking lot. If bids are received, and evaluated by our Engineer, a special meeting of the DDA will consider the bids on Wednesday, October 5 at City Hall. The Sabin Office Building at 300 N. Bridge Street (old Car Quest building) is proceeding nicely. The DDA is providing a Facade Grant for the improvement. A light pole at E. Scott and S. Bridge Streets has been destroyed by a large truck and is being replaced. The LDFA is working with several companies regarding sale of lands in the Industrial Park. They have received one offer and are expecting another soon.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

~ Chair - Jon Bayless - 627-2149

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 18 (third Tuesday) - 7:30 AM - A&W. Please join Steve Krumm, Jon Bayless, and a number of elected officials to hear about the latest in the legislature, city hall, the county court house, and the school system. Your participation is welcome! The Holiday Committee will meet at the Opera House on October 5 at 8:30 AM to plan for the 2005 holiday festivities and events.

GRAND LEDGE AREA RETAILERS

~ Chair - Marilyn Smith - 627-5170

Meetings: Every Wednesday - 8:30 AM - Opera House. Welcome to new attendees (Beth from the Hayloft & Randy from Self-Defense). Eleven businesses are participating in the GLAR booth at Color Cruise. There are 20 businesses on the GLAR Chamber of Commerce handout. Remember to decorate your place of business and your home with scarecrows by October 7. If you want to be judged, pick up a form from Four Seasons or the Chamber office and get it in as soon as possible. Night Owl Shopping is October 21, and Holiday Kick-Off Open House is November 12 & 13.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SPOTLIGHT

~ Chair - Cheri Locker - 627-8600

Meetings: Tuesday, October 4 (first Tuesday) - either 8 AM or 4 PM - Opera House. We had two successful fundraising benefits this summer. David Songer performed in August, and the Doowops performed in September. We have several projects on the agenda that the GM Job Crew is helping us with. We are still considering proposals for the future use of the theatre.

GOLF OUTING

~ Chair - Chad Lake - 622-8552

The 16th GLACC Golf Outing at Centennial Acres was fun filled and a great reason to get out of the office for a day. Thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers, gift and prize donors, and especially the golfers. We had 21 teams this year and hope to grow in the years to come. Congrats goes to the following golfers: Championship flight - Bill Brooks, Karl Lothschultz, Tom Lundey, and Dave Brooks; First flight - John Miller, Kelly Cross, Tyler Pierce, and Dave Meyer; and Mixed flight - Kelli Etchison, Todd David, Rachelle Neal, and Jeff Calhoun.

SHARING A VISION, AFTER HOURS

~ Executive Director - Norman Snyder - 627-2383

The Chamber's Sharing A Vision, After Hours will start at 5:30 PM and go until 7:00 PM or whenever. They promise to be excellent evenings for networking and promoting your business among the Chamber membership. Refreshments, beverages, and entertainment will be provided.

October 19, 2005

Key Realty

Leo & Ronald Maguire

November 23, 2005

Four Season Gift Shop

Kenneth Black

December 21, 2005

Loursel Day Spa

Sheila Laing

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CHAMBER & AMERICAN RED CROSS PARTNER FOR BLOOD DRIVE ~ OCT 12: The American Red Cross and Chamber will be holding a Blood Drive on October 12 at the Grand Ledge Opera House from 1:00 - 7:00 PM. We are in need of volunteers! If you can help us, please call the office and leave your name and telephone number. We will be contacting the volunteers for assignments prior to the blood drive.

HOLIDAY PARADE ~ DEC 2: We are in need of volunteers helping us with the Holiday Parade. If you would like to help, please contact the Chamber office at 627-2383.



UPCOMING FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

~ Please visit the www.grandledgemi.com for more detailed information

- Oct 2 ~ "Hands Across the Sea" (Pops Concert) @ Grand Ledge Opera House
- Oct 2 ~ Victorian Days Home Tour 2005 (Sponsored by Charlotte Chamber of Commerce)
- Oct 7-9 ~ Color Cruise & Island Festival @ Island Park
- Oct 12 ~ Blood Drive @ Grand Ledge Opera House
- Oct 16 ~ "From Age to Age" (Vocal & Piano Duos) @ Grand Ledge Opera House
- Oct 19 ~ Sharing A Vision, After Hours @ Key Realty
- Oct 21 ~ Night Owl Shopping (Sponsored by GLAR)
- Nov 12-13 ~ Holiday Kick-Off Open House (Sponsored by GLAR)
- Nov 23 ~ Sharing A Vision, After Hours @ Four Season Gift Shop
- Dec 2 ~ 7PM Holiday Parade
- Dec 3-4 ~ Holiday Event @ Grand Ledge Opera House
- Dec 21 ~ Sharing A Vision, After Hours @ Loursel Day Spa

